



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/737,421	12/16/2003	Wolfgang Burkhardt	AO720B	6313

7590 08/23/2006

Arthur G. Schaier
Carmody & Torrance LLP
P.O. Box 1110
50 Leavenworth Street
Waterbury, CT 06721-1110

EXAMINER

PHAN, THANH S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2841

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/737,421

Applicant(s)

BURKHARDT ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh S. Phan

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 15-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 15-21 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 15-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellner et al. [US 6,618,328] in view of Schartz [US 5,210,722].

Regarding claims 1, 5-8 and 21, Ellner et al. disclose an electronic device [1] that includes functionality to perform at least two functions, a first of which is at least timekeeping and the other of which is at least a function related to a sensed condition [abstract; the device contain messages that related to at least one of the senses/sensed condition: hearing, vision, smell and touch] wherein the electronic device comprises a multilayered module comprising: a frame [not explicitly labeled; the frame is necessarily for comprising the electronic device housing structure] having a frame surface; a timepiece [23] and a removable (second) printed circuit board including second means for receiving and processing information related to the sensed condition [an digital and/or an auditory message which obviously comprise a circuit board in order to perform digital and/or electronically functions; column 2, line 58 – column 3, line 2] wherein the second printed circuit board is securable within the module [the replaceable and exchangeable digital or auditory message is secured in the device structure], a display electronically coupled to the second means for displaying information related to

Art Unit: 2841

the external parameter [figures 15-17]; and as illustrated in figures 16 and 17, the device is capable of replacing the removable circuit board(s) with another circuit board(s) for the purpose of displaying different contents, wherein the connection means of the later board(s) are different from the board(s) being replaced [as in the second, third and so on].

Ellner et al. disclose the timepiece except for wherein the timepiece comprise a circuit board/first board and a compartment dimensioned for receiving the battery, wherein the battery compartment is asymmetrically positioned within the module thus creating a region above a printed circuit board and proximate the battery compartment.

Schwartz discloses an analog timepiece comprising a compartment dimensioned for receiving a battery [energy cell 30], wherein the battery compartment is asymmetrically positioned within the module thus creating a region above a printed circuit board [11] and proximate the battery compartment.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the timepiece design of Schwartz with Ellner et al. for the purpose of facilitating power to circuit arrangement within a compact space.

Regarding claims 2-4, Ellner et al. disclose that the second printed circuit board secured within the compartment of the electronic device, and Schartz discloses that the first circuit board is secured within the timepiece. Furthermore, the circuit board(s) and other electronic components should be electrically and physically supported by supporting member(s) within the electronic device in order for the device to perform its functions accordingly.

Regarding claims 9, 10, Ellner et al. disclose wherein the sensed condition is selected from the group consisting of directions, altitude, heart rate, speed, distance, and combinations of the foregoing [wherein the backing having a functional member for generating signals to help find the wristwatch itself in which an indication of sensed direction; column 2, lines 48-53].

Regarding claims 15-20, Ellner et al. disclose an electronic device [embodiments of figures 18-20] that includes functionality to perform at least two functions, a first of which is at least timekeeping and the other of which is at least a function related to a sensed condition [abstract; the device contain messages that related to at least one of the senses/sensed condition: hearing, vision, smell and touch] wherein the electronic device comprises a multilayered module comprising: a frame [not explicitly labeled; the frame is necessarily for comprising the electronic device housing structure] having a frame surface; a timepiece and a removable (second) printed circuit board including means for receiving and processing information related to the sensed condition [an digital and/or an auditory message which obviously comprise a circuit board in order to perform digital and/or electronically functions; abstract and column 6, lines 21-49] wherein the second printed circuit board is securable within the module [the replaceable and exchangeable digital or auditory message is secured in the device structure]. Ellner et al. did not explicitly numbered/labeled a controller that electronically interfaces with both of the printed circuit board, however these features must be presented/inherent for a user to actuated a member of the device for the device to electrically

displaying/performing different messages [when different messages is placed in the compartment] as suggested in column 6, lines 21-49.

Ellner et al. disclose the timepiece except for wherein the timepiece comprise a circuit board/first board and a compartment dimensioned for receiving the battery, wherein the battery compartment is asymmetrically positioned within the module thus creating a region above a printed circuit board and proximate the battery compartment.

Schwartz discloses an analog timepiece comprising a compartment dimensioned for receiving a battery [energy cell 30], wherein the battery compartment is asymmetrically positioned within the module thus creating a region above a printed circuit board [11] and proximate the battery compartment.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the timepiece design of Schwartz with Ellner et al. for the purpose of facilitating power to circuit arrangement within a compact space.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 05/25/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended and emphasized in the independent claims to included a "display" and a "third means" for receiving information and argues that Ellner fails to disclose these features. Examiner disagrees, as disclosed and illustrated in figures 16 and 17, a display is presented as the digital picture 105 is replaced by the message 109 by actuating member 107 and vice versa. Since the device of Ellner is capable of replacing the replaceable circuit board, the "new" circuit board comprising

means for connecting with the device, therefore the device further comprises a third means after the second board is replaced.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

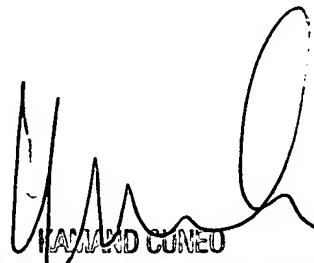
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh S. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-2109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on 571-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

tsp



HOWARD CUNEO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800